

January 24, 2006

(AR-18J)

Mr. Robert Hodanbosi, Chief
Division of Air Pollution Control
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
122 South Front Street
Columbus, Ohio 43125

Dear Mr. Hodanbosi:

On May 23-25, 2005, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) conducted an on-site evaluation of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's (OEPA) new source review (NSR) permit program. USEPA is scheduled to conduct NSR program evaluations for all permitting authorities nationwide. Enclosed you will find a copy of our final report on the OEPA NSR program.

As part of our evaluation we were to identify program strengths and those areas needing improvement. Among the strengths are the permit tracking system, enhancements to the public participation process, and continued efforts to improve the efficiency of the permitting process. OEPA's permit tracking system, PTIs2000, allows the public to electronically access the status of PTI applications and this helps the public track the permits through the different stages. Highlights of the public participation process include notifying the public of various rule developments via mailing list and a public hearing calendar posted on its web site, in addition to providing basic information the public needs to be involved. The General Permit to Install and Permit by Rule are two recent examples of OEPA's continued efforts to improve efficiency of the permitting process.

Among the areas for improvement are timely data entry into the RACT/BACT/LAER Clearinghouse (RBLC), and Canada notification of sources. The RBLC is an important means of sharing the latest information on BACT and LAER determinations on a national basis. OEPA is encouraged to make necessary efforts to ensure that the RBLC is updated with its determinations in a timely manner. As part of the U.S./Canada Air Quality Agreement, we are responsible for notifying Canada of major permit activities within 100 kilometers of the U.S./Canadian border. It is important that you continue to work with us to ensure that we notify Canada in a timely fashion.

We would like to work with you to address the areas needing improvement. In response to OEPA's suggestion, we will work with you to provide guidance and assistance regarding the implementation of the PM2.5 requirements once our final guidance is issued.

We would like to thank you and your staff for your assistance with the evaluation. If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Richard Angelbeck at 312/886-9698.

Sincerely yours,

/S/

Stephen Rothblatt, Director
Air and Radiation Division

Enclosure

